

# 1600

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples including the Narragansett, Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Pequot live throughout the land we call Rhode Island. In the 1600s, Europeans arrive and begin to establish permanent settlements throughout the native territories.

★ NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

★ 1620  
The Mayflower brings the first European settlers to New England.

1638  
Anne Hutchinson, expelled from Massachusetts for her religious views, founds Portsmouth.

1639  
Unhappy with the political and religious climate in Massachusetts, William Coddington travels south and founds Newport.

1640  
Newport establishes the Common Burying Ground for all residents regardless of religion, race, or social status.

1647  
Town officials from Providence, Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick create a system of government for Providence Plantations that establishes citizens' rights.

1652  
Rhode Island passes a law banning slavery, however it is not well enforced.

1620

1630  
Roger Williams leaves England and sails to Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1636  
Banished from Massachusetts for his religious views, Roger Williams founds Providence on land granted to him by Narragansett chiefs Canonius and Miantonomi.

1638  
Roger Williams founds the first Baptist church in America in Providence.

1640

1644  
Name of Aquidneck Island is changed to Rhode Island.

1643  
A Parliamentary Patent formally recognizes Providence, Portsmouth, and Newport as "Providence Plantations in Narragansett Bay."

1643  
Roger Williams publishes A Key into the Language of America, the first dictionary of Algonquian language and culture.

1650

1675  
King Philip's war begins. Named for Wampanoag chief Metacombet, King Philip's War lasts only 14 months, but permanently changes Rhode Island. Most of the indigenous people are captured, killed, or leave the area. Some are sold into slavery.

1696  
The first documented slave ship, the Boston bound Seaflower, arrives in Newport.

1705  
A section of Newport's Common Burying Ground is established for African Americans. It is known as "God's Little Acre."

1747  
Newport citizens found the Redwood Library, the oldest lending library in America.

1775  
The Battle of Lexington and Concord begins the American Revolution. The Revolution ends in 1783 with the Treaty of Paris.

1781  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment joins with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Regiment to become the first integrated regiment in the United States.

1793  
Samuel Slater builds the first water-powered textile mill in Pawtucket, marking the beginning of the American Industrial Revolution.

1812  
Congress declares war on England, launching the War of 1812. Peace negotiations end the war three years later.

1833  
Providence citizens hold the first public anti-slavery meeting.

1853  
Manufacturing firm Brown & Sharpe standardizes measurement tools, revolutionizing mass production in Rhode Island and around the country.

1854  
Rhode Island College is founded as the Rhode Island State Normal School, a teacher preparatory school in Providence.

1861  
The Civil War begins with the attack of Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. It ends four years later with General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia.

1865  
13<sup>th</sup> Amendment abolishes slavery

1870  
15<sup>th</sup> Amendment guarantees the right to vote regardless of "race, color or previous condition of servitude."

1885  
Reverend Mahlon Van Horne is the first African American man to be elected to the General Assembly. He wins re-election in 1887 and 1889.

1892  
University of Rhode Island is founded as the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in Kingston.

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1669  
The Great Friends Meeting House is built in Newport. The Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, was among the most persecuted religious groups in the late 1600s.

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Brown University is established in Warren as "the College" in Rhode Island. It is the first college in the state.

1776  
May 4 - Rhode Island passes the Act of Renunciation, becoming the first colony to renounce its allegiance to King George III.

1776  
The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.

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Providence citizens are the first to propose the idea of a Continental Congress.

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